

I applaud this fine group of award-winning performers who entertain thousands in the 19th Congressional District and across the country each year. The Swingsations exemplify the meaning of "champion," and I am proud to represent them in the U.S. Congress.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A FUND FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF OVERSEAS WAR MEMORIALS

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 1995

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to establish an account to accept and disburse funds for the maintenance and repair of selected overseas war memorials. My distinguished colleague, the ranking member of the Veterans Affairs Committee, SONNY MONTGOMERY, joins me in introducing this bill.

The American Battle Monuments Commission is tasked with maintaining our overseas cemeteries and war memorials in a manner befitting the sacrifices of those who served this Nation in time of war, especially those who gave their lives in the cause of freedom.

When requested to assume responsibility for a specific memorial, the Commission makes an assessment of the condition and historical value of the site. In this way, the Commission accepts responsibility for only the most important sites. Typically, the request to assume responsibility includes funds to maintain the memorial.

Today, the Commission is increasingly being asked to assume responsibility for overseas memorials whose private sponsors have dwindled in numbers. But the passage of time now makes it difficult for these patriots to provide the active oversight needed to ensure the appropriate condition of the memorial.

My bill will provide the Commission an account to accept private donations, direct the Secretary of the Treasury to invest excess funds in interest bearing obligations of the United States, and authorize use of those funds for memorial maintenance.

In this manner, we can continue to honor those who have fought and died and keep the memory of their sacrifices alive as a reminder for the generations who have inherited the legacy of their commitment. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

ABMC BACKGROUND NOTES

ABMC currently has statutory authority to take over private monuments it considers worthy of retention.

Past takeovers include the Ranger monument at Point du Hoc overlooking Utah Beach and the Cabanatuan Memorial in the Philippines honoring 75,000 U.S. and Filipino POW's held by Japan.

ABMC is currently considering taking over monuments for 3 Engineer units and a 29th Division monument on the Normandy beaches, as well as several USAF monuments.

ABMC estimates that about \$300,000 is available for these and a few other sites, if they can get the account established. Interest on investments in government securities will also be added to the account to maintain solvency for the next ten years or so.

TRIBUTE TO SMYRNA NISSAN EMPLOYEES

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 1995

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, in the coming days and months Congress will be making big decisions about the way our economy works. These decisions will have a lasting impact on how America meets the 21st century and whether our workers and companies will have the tools to compete. I take my responsibility to make sure that America goes into the future strong and prepared very seriously.

America has the most skilled, productive, and dedicated workers in the world. Despite vocal nay-sayers' predictions about the American economy declining in the face of international competition, I have found the opposite to be true.

I did not have to go far to find proof. There are 6,000 hard-working people in Smyrna, TN who go to work every day at the Nissan Motor Manufacturing Corp. with the attitude that "every day we want to do better than we did yesterday." Those words came from Nissan CEO and President Jerry Benefield who has proven that rewarding hard work and making sure that employees know they have the power to create—or break—their company.

Those Smyrna Nissan employees have reason to be proud. They have built the most productive car and truck assembly plant in America for the second year in a row.

One of the secrets of their success is attitude. Another is their extensive training and know-how. Those are the two keys that set not only the Smyrna plant apart from other American plants, but also what sets American companies apart from the rest of the world. Smyrna employees assemble a car in just 2.2 worker days, setting the benchmark for national productivity.

I want to congratulate and thank the 6,000 of you who earned this recognition on behalf of Smyrna. It goes to show that Tennessee, and America, are poised to take the lead in innovation and productivity. All of you are obviously going above and beyond just doing your job—and doing it very successfully.

SCHOOL OF THE FUTURE IS HERE NOW

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 1995

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, I had the pleasure of touring a school in my district which is setting the trend for the future of education. Mason Middle School, in Warren County in southwest Ohio, uses a state-of-the-art technology-driven curriculum so that students can easily enter the high-tech workplace and adapt to a changing world.

If our world is transitioning to an information-based society, these students will be way ahead of the curve. As our current methods of production become obsolete, more and more work will have to do with information processing. Because of Mason Middle School's emphasis on information and technology, its stu-

dents are being given the skills to compete in the work force of the future and the confidence to succeed there. Students also learn to appreciate the interconnectedness of the world, preparing them to interact in a global economy.

When we create schools such as this, we are doing more than providing for our children's success in an age of ever-expanding technology. We are laying the groundwork for a new political system. Our system is based on democracy, or the will of the people. To express the will of the people, we rely on representation. Computers will make our system of representation more responsive. What began with polling by mail and then phone has evolved into direct communication and decisionmaking. Instead of relying on our Senators or Congressmen and women to represent us, in the future, we can begin to represent ourselves. A democratic system can only be effective with an informed and engaged electorate. Technology will bring us even closer together—creating a more participatory democracy.

Using today's far more advanced computers, satellites, telephones, cable, polling techniques, and other tools, not to mention the Internet and other communication networks, an educated citizenry can, for the first time in history, begin making many of its own political decisions. I'd say that's pretty exciting stuff. And I would also say that I am very proud that a school in the Second Congressional District is leading the way.

BUILDING DEMOCRACY IN UKRAINE

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 1995

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, the American Overseas Interests Act, H.R. 1561, does not encourage economic and democratic reforms in the New Independent States.

The bill cuts aid to Ukraine and other New Independent States by nearly \$100 million.

At a time when Ukraine is receiving a more significant share of United States assistance to the NIS, this bill negates the gains that have been made.

However, one positive step in the bill in the increase of our assistance to the victims of Chernobyl.

This bill provides a \$10 million commitment to help the victims of the Chernobyl disaster, especially the children.

Thyroid cancer is plaguing the children in the region.

There are hundreds of thousands of people with severe health problems.

And the worst is yet to come, because many of the effects of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster will not be known until later this decade.

There is a desperate need for this aid.

Ukraine faces a severe shortage of medical supplies and effective health care.

Our aid to Ukraine and other New Independent States is less than 10 percent of the foreign aid budget, which is less than 2 percent of our Federal budget.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased we were able to help the victims of Chernobyl.